

Department of Health and Hospitals

Office of Public Health

Emergency Medical Services - Health Standards Medical Transportation Fact Sheet

The Bureau of EMS (BEMS) shall oversee medical transportation (emergency vehicles) as outlined in RS 40: 1235. This mandate is under the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, but shall be promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals. The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services is responsible for setting the standards, and overseeing the EMS Services, but the authority is currently held by Health Standards. The Bureau of EMS is better suited to oversee this activity, as Health Standards cannot set the standards for which emergency vehicles are regulated.

- A reduction in funding would have no impact on the Bureau of EMS.
- An increase in funding to BEMS would streamline services, improve efficiency, and reduce costs across the Department of Health and Hospitals.

Objective

Establish standards, drawing upon national or other evidence-based standards where possible, for the operation and deployment of EMS personnel. Assume the authority for standards, inspection, and licensure of equipment and operation of emergency and non-emergency medical transportation vehicles, and for the clinical operations of air medical services.

Performance Indicators

1. Assume the role as the designated authority for the establishment of qualifications to operate emergency and non-emergency medical transportation vehicles.
2. Conduct inspections of all emergency and non-emergency medical transportation vehicles, provider services, and verify certification of personnel authorized to operate these vehicles.
3. Conduct inspections of all required equipment and supplies as mandated by the Department of Health and Hospitals.

Narrative

A mandate exists to identify, license, and assure adequate deployment of emergency and non-emergency medical transportation vehicles. These resources must meet specific standards of quality to assure timely and appropriate response scaled to the nature of an incident. There is a need to monitor safety and response time of these resources.

The current licensure agency is Health Standards within the Medicaid (Health Services Financing) section of DHH. The licensure agency is a critical component in the success of the EMS mission. There is no formal operational linkage between Health Standards and the Bureau of EMS. The daily operation of Health Standards is directly linked to the daily operations of EMS professionals. An ambulance

inspection is 50% of the equation in the EMS process. This core function does not meet acceptable levels of integration for the current process. In the vast majority of other states, ambulance inspection is included in the Emergency Medical Services office. With the integration of this task within the Bureau of EMS, simultaneous inspections for vehicles, providers and personnel will allow for efficiency and effectiveness resulting in a cost savings for the State.

Better Health

The State is committed to streamlining services, and reducing the cost and size of state government. Currently, we have redundant systems and repetitive actions located in different branches of DHH which is inefficient and allows for non-compliance to standards and regulations. This decreases the standard of care for our residents.

The Bureau of EMS is responsible for establishing and maintaining a program for the improvement and regulation of emergency medical services in the state. Currently, health standards conducts on-going inspections utilizing seven FTE's, of which one is 100% dedicated to this activity, and six are 50% dedicated. These staff members are not EMS professionals. The inspections are assigned as additional job duties to those persons who are less than 100% dedicated to this activity.

The integration of the emergency and non emergency medical transportation activity into BEMS will allow three 100% dedicated EMS professionals to conduct inspections of the vehicles, providers, and personnel in one audit.